

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). ~~A suture retainer~~ An implantable fastener for securing ~~a suture~~ an object relative to a body tissue, comprising:

a first section including a first surface and further including an extension member extending from said surface, and

a second section including a second surface, said second surface opposing said first surface and being configured for receiving the extension member, the first and second sections being bondable together with the application of an energy source;

said first surface being configured to abut the ~~suture~~ object and said second surface being configured to abut the ~~suture~~ object.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suture~~ object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 2, wherein the first and second sections are bonded together to secure the ~~suture~~ object.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first section includes a pair of parallel channels.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 4, wherein the extension member is interposed between the pair of parallel channels.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 5, wherein the second section includes a channel configured for receiving the extension member.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture retainer~~ fastener according to claim 6, wherein the ~~suture~~ object includes first and second ends one each positionable within the parallel channels.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 7, wherein the extension member is positioned within the channel, such that the ~~suture~~ object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first section comprises a pair of parallel extension members.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 9, wherein the second section includes a pair of parallel channels configured for receiving the parallel extension members.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 10, wherein the ~~suture~~ object is interposed between the parallel extension members.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 11 wherein the parallel extension members are positioned within the parallel channels, such that the ~~suture~~ object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the extension member is a center post.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 13, wherein the second section includes a flange defining a passage configured for receiving the center post.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 14, wherein an exterior surface of the center post and an interior surface of the passage are textured.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 15, wherein the ~~suture~~ object is wrapped around the center post.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 16, wherein the center post is positioned within the passage, such that the ~~suture~~ object is interposed between the center post and [[the]] an interior surface of the passage.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the first and second sections contacting the other of the first and second sections is textured.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sections are interconnected.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener is made of a biodegradable material.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener is made of a heat shrink material.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener includes viable cells.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener includes pharmaceutical agents.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein the energy source is selected from the group consisting of radio frequency energy, laser energy, microwave energy, ultrasound energy, contact heating energy, and combinations thereof.

Claims 25-48 (Canceled).

Claim 49 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein said first surface and said second surface are configured to sandwich the suture.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein:

said first section has two channels formed therein, said channels being disposed opposingly about and immediately adjacent to said extension member; and

said second section is configured to seat within said channels of said first section.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 1, wherein:

said extension member divides said first surface into a first first-surface subsurface and a second first-surface subsurface,

a channel divides said second surface into a first second-surface subsurface and a second second-surface subsurface,

said first first-surface subsurface is configured to align with said first second-surface subsurface when said first section is bonded to said second section; and

said second first-surface subsurface is configured to align with said second second-surface subsurface when said first section is bonded to said second section.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended). The ~~suture-retainer~~ fastener according to claim 51, further comprising a suture being disposed between at least one of said first first-surface subspace and said first second-surface subspace and said second first-surface subspace and said second second-surface subspace.

Claim 53 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is elongated.

Claim 54 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is a suture.

Claim 55 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is body tissue.

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Claim 56 (New). The fastener according to claim 55, wherein said body tissue is selected from the group consisting of soft tissue, tendon, ligament, and bone.

Claim 57 (New). The fastener according to claim 55, wherein said object is metallic.